

## **FOR PUBLICATION**

### **Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme (A360)**

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<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>APPEALS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>SENIOR EHO – Catherine Bromhall</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

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Background Papers - All relevant documentation is available on M3 and may be inspected at the Environmental Health Department, OSD, Chesterfield

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### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To request approval to put measures in place to charge for re-rating inspections.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Tattoo Hygiene Rating Scheme is a hygiene ratings scheme originally introduced in Wales. It is now being rolled out by councils across England.

2.2 Tattoo businesses are being rated on how hygienic they are under a new voluntary scheme designed to drive up standards.

2.3 Tattooing has become increasingly popular in recent years, particularly among young adults and adolescents. It is becoming more popular with males and females alike.

2.4 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1982 enables local authorities in England and Wales to adopt powers to control tattooing by requiring persons undertaking these activities as a business to register with the local authority and comply with by-laws. This legislation is enforced by unitary and district councils.

2.5 The potential health risks arising from tattooing are well documented and include:

- Infection risk from normal bacterial 'flora' of the skin. The majority of such infections are localised but they can result in secondary infections like cellulitis, sepsis, abscess, endocarditis, and gangrene.
- Infection from exposure to blood borne viruses, particularly Hepatitis B and C, from equipment if it is not sterilised correctly
- Allergic reactions from the materials used in some of the dyes and inks.

2.6 Benefits from implementing the scheme would be:

- Inform the public about the hygiene standards in the premises at the time of the most recent inspection.
- Drive up standards and adoption of best practice across the industry for example requiring documentary proof that the person wishing to be tattooed is 18 years old and above.
- Reduce the risk of incidents of infection and transmission of infectious diseases from tattooing procedures.

2.7 Participating premises will be allocated a rating from 1 (Improvement Needed) to 4 (Very Good) following an Environmental Health inspection. That rating can be displayed on-line and in the premises in certificate form and on the window of the premises in the form of a window sticker (similar to that used in the Food Hygiene Rating System).

2.8 The scheme is a voluntary scheme. Across Derbyshire there are 137 registered premises offering tattooing.

2.9 The scheme will be coordinated centrally by the Derbyshire Health Protection Team within Public Health, and the district, borough and city council Environmental Health Teams will undertake the inspections of participating businesses and promote the scheme within agreed guidelines.

2.10 Chesterfield Borough Council will be paid £60 by Derbyshire County Council public health team to inspect each business that chooses to participate in the scheme. There will also be incidental costs such as postage and the costs of the stickers.

### **3.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 I confirm that there are no such implications from this particular report in relation to: HR, financial, legal and data protection, consultation, risk management and equalities.
- 3.2 The ratings have already been introduced in Wales and are now being rolled out by councils in England.
- 3.3 All premises offering tattooing within Local Authority administrative area are eligible to apply to participate in the THRS.
- 3.4 Application to join the scheme constitutes acceptance of the Rules of the Scheme.
- 3.5 Irrespective of any other services offered by the premises the THRS shall apply to the tattooing procedure only.
- 3.6 Tattooing premises will be rated by the inspecting officer in accordance with the rating scheme following a programmed or initial inspection carried out under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
- 3.7 Should the inspecting officer find at the initial inspection that remedial works or action is required, the rating may be deferred. The operator will then be given time to take actions as required. The premises shall be rated upon completion of the works.

#### **4.0 REQUESTS FOR RE-RATING**

- 4.1 The purpose of the THRS is to raise standards within the tattoo sector. Operators may therefore wish to improve their THR by carrying out such works as may be necessary to progress up the ratings. Local authorities should encourage progression. Requests for re-ratings should not be accepted for 3 months after the programmed Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 inspection has been carried out – in effect operators should have to ‘live with’ the rating they are awarded for a period of time before they can be re-rated.

Operators will not be keen to carry out such works or demonstrate embedded practices as may be required to progress through the ratings if they will be required to wait until their programmed inspection to be re-rated, therefore where works have been carried out local authorities should accede where possible to requests to re-rate the premises, subject to 3 months having elapsed since the last programmed inspection and rating visit.

- 4.2 Where premises are re-rated a new THRS Certificate and Window sticker should be awarded and websites amended.

- 4.3 Where a premises has been re-rated the 'new' rating will last only until the next programmed inspection at which point the rating will be reviewed in accordance with the scheme.
- 4.4 If a request for re-rating is made and the local authority does not have the capacity or resources to carry out a re-rating visit the operator should be advised accordingly. If, in the view of the local authority the period between the request for re-rating and the next programmed inspection is sufficiently short the request should be denied and the operator advised that the rating will be considered at the time of the next programmed inspection.
- 4.5 Local authorities are asked where possible to accede to request for re-rating to encourage improvements in standards and maintain tattoo premises operators' confidence in the scheme.
- 4.6 In coordination with DCC Public Health and other Derbyshire LAs a decision was made that each LA would implement their own fee for re-rating inspections.
- 4.7 CBC officers have calculated that £40 should be applied as a re-rate fee to cover costs of officer revisiting premises. This is in line and consistent with other LAs in Derbyshire participating in the scheme.

## **5.0 EQUALITIES SECTION**

- 5.1 The equality and diversity has been considered during the development of the scheme and no negative impacts for protected groups have been identified.
- 5.2 The overall impact for the community is positive with respect to health and safety.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the contents of this report and after consideration:
- i) Agrees to a new charge of £40 being applied for re-rating of premises in the scheme if required.

Catherine Bromhall  
Senior Environmental Health Officer